

March 27, 1964

Major Charles W. Roth  
Police Education and Training  
3009 Goddard Road  
Toledo 6, Ohio

Dear Major Roth:

It was very thoughtful of you to send me the copy of Mrs. Robb's article. I have received several of these copies.

Mrs. Robb is a charming person and it seems she writes on a factual basis. I wish all correspondents felt as she does. Many have not been nearly so kind or fair.

We shall be glad for you to drop by the department any time you are in Dallas visiting your daughter.

Sincerely,

J. E. Curry  
Chief of Police

es

Inez Robb Says

## Shot That Killed Lee Oswald Nearly Ended Career Of Dallas Police Chief

DALLAS—Shortly after 11 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 24 a Texas-big man swung out of his Texas-big office on the third floor of the Municipal Building and headed for an elevator that would take him to the basement of the building.

Before he could get to the elevator, Chief Curry was intercepted by his secretary who said that the mayor of Dallas was on the phone and wished to speak with him.

Chief Curry was still on the phone, speaking with the mayor, when a dazed and rushed in around 11:25 a.m. to say that the most famous prisoner in America, Lee Harvey Oswald, had just been shot in the basement of the building, which also serves as the city jail.



Mrs. Robb

and harshly blamed for Oswald's death.

Because he had yielded to the pressure of news media to transfer the prisoner in broad daylight, for the benefit of television and news cameras, he was branded, first and foremost, as a publicity "hog."

IT WAS SUCH a lightweight character I expected to meet when I went to his office. As an experienced reporter I can spot a publicity hog at 5,000 paces. But the police officer I met has none of the attributes of such headline-happy looks.

"I did what I thought was best at the time," he said quietly, and with a trace of bitterness. "I would do it differently now. Sure, hindsight is wonderful."

"The news media was rather demanding. They put the heat on," Chief Curry went on. "To show that we weren't abusing the suspect in any way, as was hinted, we decided to move him as we did. Had it not been for such pressure, Oswald would have been transferred in the presence of police officers only."

At the time of Oswald's murder in the basement of the police station, Chief

The Toledo Times, Tu  
Curry had never seen Jack Ruby. Oddly enough, he was not to see the man—his nemesis—until a few weeks ago when the police chief was subpoenaed to testify in the Ruby bond hearing.

### THIS SOFT-SPOKEN

Texas giant entered the Dallas police force as a rookie on May 1, 1936, and steadily worked his way to the top, with time out to study police work at the Traffic Institute of Northwestern University, at the FBI National Academy, at Texas A. and M. and Dallas' Southern Methodist University. He has been and is an officer of national and international police associations.

On Nov. 24 his career seemed ended. But the mayor of Dallas, its city manager and the city council, stood behind him to a man. "They think I did what I thought best even if I was wrong," he said.

HIS REACTION to the astonishing news?

"Disbelief," said Chief Curry when I talked with him in his office. "Just plain disbelief, after all the precautions that had been taken to transfer him from jail to the county prison. I thought every precaution had been taken—"

"I don't think anyone in this century had been subject to such pressure or demand for 'instant news,'" Chief Curry continued in his low-key manner. "It had reached the point where the news media were trying to satisfy the public which felt it had the right to witness or participate in events as they occurred."

"As a result of Oswald's killing, I am sure a different standard of police policy in handling news media has been set up all over the world; not just here."

ON THAT MORNING OF

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MAJOR CHARLES W. ROTH, Toledo Police Dept. (Ret.)

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3009 Goddard Rd.

Toledo 6, Ohio

March 11, 1964

Jesse Curry  
Chief of Police  
Dallas Police Dept-  
Dallas Texas

Dear Chief Curry :

Enclosed is a clipping we thought you might be interested in since it concerns you and your department.

We always have an eye for anything in Dallas because our daughter and family live there at 5527 Garuth Blvd.,

I was acquainted with former chief Hansen and the late Inspector Ashenhurst in charge of your police training and had the privilege of lecturing one of your classes a few years ago.

Best Wishes for your continued success.

Respectfully,

*Charles W. Roth*

just been shot in the basement of the building, which also serves as the city jail.

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**ON THAT MORNING** of Nov. 24 Jack Ruby, operator of a cheap Dallas strip-tease joint, had somehow walked into the heavily guarded basement. He is now on trial for "murder with malice" in the fatal shooting of the man who, 46 hours earlier, is alleged to have assassinated President Kennedy. "How did such a man get into that basement?" I asked, repeating the question that has bothered millions of Americans ever since.

"I couldn't reveal that," Chief Curry replied in his soft, low-pitched voice. "That will have to be revealed by the Warren Commission investigating the assassination. We have turned over to them every scrap of evidence we have collected."

The shot that killed Oswald triggered, among other things, what might be called "The Ordeal of Jesse Curry." Within hours this man who had a national—even an international—reputation as an outstanding, competent police officer was being attacked



# BEETLE BAILEY

## ARCHIE

Friday, March 10, 1964